NIAID-SUPPORTED REPOSITORIES

NIAID's intramural and extramural researchers have developed an ample supply of resources and reagents that are used by scientists worldwide for basic research, applied research to develop therapeutics and vaccines, and commercialization. These resources include peptides, cell lines, monoclonal antibodies, viral vectors, and animal models.

Division of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

Biological Reagents and Reference Standards

The AIDS Research and Reference Reagent Program acquires and distributes state-of-the-art reagents for AIDS-related research and makes these reagents available to qualified investigators throughout the world. It has grown significantly during the past 14 years and now has more than 4,300 reagents for public distribution. The AIDS Research and Reference Reagent Program also encourages and facilitates technology transfer through workshops, publication of methods, and provision of standardized panels and protocols; facilitates commercial development of reagents; and participates as an AIDS Collaborating Center of the World Health Organization (WHO). Additional information is available at *www.aidsreagent.org.*

Through the Vaccine Reagent Resource, the Division of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (DAIDS) also provides resources for the production or procurement of reagents essential for vaccine studies conducted by the HIV Vaccine Trials Network and the Simian Vaccine Evaluation Units, as well as other priority vaccine studies. These resources also provide for the quality assurance testing of reagents. Additional information is available at *www.niaid.nih.gov/daids/vaccine/reagentres.htm.*

Human HIV Specimens

Research on HIV transmission and disease progression patterns greatly benefits from a centralized system for receiving, cataloging, storing, and distributing samples collected from various well-characterized cohorts of HIV-infected individuals. NIAID provides state-of-the-art storage and computerized inventory management of specimens from domestic and international HIV epidemiology studies, HIV therapeutic and vaccine trials, and other prevention research studies through its central repositories. The reagent program has immortalized and expanded white blood cells from more than 7,000 specimens from DAIDS-supported cohort studies of HIV-infected people, including the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS), Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS), and Women and Infants Transmission Study (WITS). These preserved cells will provide a source of DNA for future studies of genetic factors in HIV disease. By making these specimens available to the scientific community, DAIDS fosters collaboration among scientific investigators to promote further progress in the detection, treatment, and prevention of HIV disease. To date, more than 2,000 scientists in the United States and 63 countries have been registered to receive reagents, and more than 140,000 vials of reagents have been distributed.

The reagent program contract was amended in 2003 to jump start acquisition and distribution of urgently needed quality-controlled reagents for research on biodefense and emerging